

ATELIER DU NOIR

presents

Oneshot:
Years

Author:
Nisei

years

Credit page done by Volden
Inspired by Charlotte

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We're looking for [redrawers](#). Please apply.

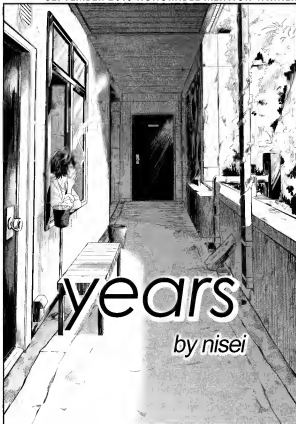
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SEPTEMBER 2016 HONORABLE MENTION WINNER



A story about taking back something important.

SEPTEMBER 2016 HONORABLE MENTION WINNER



A story about taking back something important.

AFUMU...

PHOTOGRAPHY
CLUB

MY BODY
IS OUTSIDE
THE ROOM,
THOUGH!
SOBT

SERIOUSLY?

I TOLD
YOU THAT
YOU'RE NOT
ALLOWED
TO SMOKE
IN THE
CLUB ROOM.

2

I'M GLAD
YOU'RE SO
ENTHUSIASTIC.
IF, BY SOME
SLIM CHANCE, WE
CAN INCREASE
MEMBERSHIP
IN THE CLUB,
THEN I'LL BE
HAPPY.

AS THE
ADVISOR, IS IT
OKAY TO SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?

I'VE GOT
SOME NEGATIVES
THAT I'D LIKE
TO TRY MAKING
PRINTS OF.

YOU'RE NOT A
BOARDING STUDENT,
SO YOU'RE FREE TO
DO AS YOU WANT
AFTER CLASSES END
SO LONG AS YOU
ATTEND SCHOOL
AND YET...

click



TOKYO.



ARE
YOU PLAN-
NING ON
TRAVELING
OVERSEAS
TO TAKE
PICTURES
DURING THE
SUMMER
HOLIDAYS
AGAIN?

THEN
WHERE
ARE YOU
PLANNING
ON GOING
HERE IN
JAPAN?

I'LL GO
ABROAD
AFTER
I GET A
BIT MORE
MONEY
SAVED
UP.

NO.



WHEN
I WAS
YOUNG, I
LIVED IN
TOKYO.



THEN
WHY
ARE YOU
GOING
BACK?

HAHAHA
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

SUCH A
BANAL
CHOICE
AGAIN?



My grand-
mother's home
is almost an
hour from the
city by train.

In the
winter of my
first year of
middle school,
we visited my
mother's
hometown in
Hokkaido.



That's why
when I looked
out from the
train and saw
a silvery white
world in front
of me, it was
essentially the
first time I'd
ever seen it.

I was very
young, so I
don't really
remember
much from
when I lived
there
before.

I'm told I
was born in
this town and
moved with my
mother to
Tokyo when I
was three.

That day
was the 12th
anniversary
of my grand-
father's
death.



I'VE
ALREADY
LAID OUT
FUTONS FOR
THE TWO OF
YOU UP-
STAIRS.



I'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
THE REST.



TAKE IT
SLOWLY
TODAY AND
REST.



YOU MUST
BE TIRED
AFTER YOUR
LONG JOURNEY
FROM TOKYO,
RIGHT?





YOU KNOW WHAT
HANA TOLD ME?
"YOUR SON SEEMS
INCAPABLE OF
GREETING PEOPLE
PROPERLY."



I'M SO
TIRED.



SHE'S
PROBABLY
JEALOUS OF
HER BRILLIANT
OLDER SISTER
WHO BOTH
WORKS HARD
AND RAISES
A CHILD.



OH? AT
LEAST HE
DISPLAYED
PROPER
MANNERS. YOU
KNOW HOW
HANA-CHAN IS
WITH HER
COMPETITIVE-
NESS.

BRILLIANT?
HOW SO?

IS IT
YOUR JOB?
YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SUCH A
HARD WORKER
AFTER ALL.

NO. IT'S
ABOUT
AHUMU.
WE WERE
TALKING
ABOUT IT
BEFORE.



I'M A
FAILURE.

I'M SO
EMBAR-
RASSED I
COULD
DIE.



NANA-
CHAN.



AFTER HE WAS
BORN, MY LIFE
TURNED INTO
A MESS.

NOT ONLY AM I
A SINGLE MOTHER,
MY CHILD ISN'T
EVEN ATTENDING
SCHOOL. HE CAN'T
EVEN SPEAK TO
HIS MOTHER
PROPERLY. MUCH
LESS OTHER
PEOPLE.

EVERYONE
ELSE HAS A
SUCCESSFUL
CAREER. WHILE
I'M JUST A
STRUGGLING
HOUSEWIFE.





I knew
right away
that she
had left me
there and
gone back
to Tokyo.



When
I woke
up in the
morning,
my mom
was
gone.



Oddly
enough,
I didn't
cry.



It was decided
that I would start
going to this middle
school beginning in
the spring.

From that
day on, I've been
living with my
grandmother.

I don't know
what kind of
argument went
on between my
Mom and
grandmother.



On
my first
day as a
transfer
student...



The
middle
school
is in the
center
of town,
beyond
the level
crossing.



I
couldn't
walk
across
it.



And I
threw up
on the
spot.



A horrible
memory
made me feel
nauseated.



SLANG



SLANG

Her hands
were still
covered in
mud from
working in
the fields.

I'm not
sure if
the school
contacted
my grand-
mother or
not, but
she came
to get me.

AYUMU-
CHAN!

SLOWLY,
SLOWLY
DOES IT.

THE
SOUND OF
THE WIND
IS NICE...

"SLOWLY..."

"SLOWLY..."



YOU
HAVE
GOOD
EARS,
AYUMU-
CHAN.

OH,
YOU
CAN
HEAR
HIM?

JOE'S
BARKING.
I WONDER
IF HE'S
HUNGRY?



TWITCH

Apart
from fixed
test times, I
didn't go to
school

When autumn
came, I slowly
began helping
out grandma
in the fields.



YOU MUST
NOTICE LOTS
OF THINGS
QUICKLY
BECAUSE
OF THAT.

12



WHEN
I WAS
IN TOKYO,
EVERY TIME
I WENT OUT,
MY EARS
HURT.



IS
THAT
RIGHT?



ROOAR!!

It was only natural that my mom didn't return then, either.

The days passed and on the 16th anniversary of my grandfather's death...



REALLY? THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HELP.

AYUMU-CHAN.

WE HAD LOTS OF VISITORS TODAY, YOU MUST BE TIRED.

NO, I'M FINE.



Without moving up to high school.

I continued to help out my grandmother...



APART FROM THIS PICTURE, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER.



IT'S THE CAMERA THAT HE USED.



HANNAH, WHILE I WAS CLEANING YOUR GRANDFATHER'S ROOM, I FOUND THIS.

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING GOOD, AYUMU-CHAN.

HUH?



AFTER THAT, HE
SUDDENLY
BECAME
ILL.



THERE'S
STILL SOME
FILM LEFT, SO
YOU SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
USE IT RIGHT
AWAY.



HE TOOK
LOTS OF
PICTURES
USING
THIS.

UNTIL
YOU WERE
ABOUT ONE
YEAR OLD...



THANK
GOODNESS
THERE ARE
INSTRUCTIONS.

WITH THIS,
YOU ROLL UP
THE FILM AND
RELEASE THE
SHUTTER?

EVEN
MEMORIES
THAT ARE
CHERISHED
ARE IMMEDIATELY
FORGOTTEN.

YOUR
GRANDPA
OFTEN
SAID...

THAT
BECAUSE
PEOPLE'S
BRAINS TEND
TO FORGET
THINGS
QUICKLY...

THAT'S WHY
BY TAKING A
PICTURE, THERE
IS SOMETHING
LEFT BEHIND.







*I
CROSSED
IT!*

That
day was
a turning
point.
Every day
after that,
I went out
with my
camera.

I resolved
to develop
it myself
someday.



To commemorate
the first roll of
film that I finished,
I wrote a '1'
on it.



COME
BACK
SOON.

After the
snow had
melted, I
took my
passport
and went
on my first
journey.



Every
time I took
a picture, I
wanted to
see even
more of the
outside
world.

I PUT THE
MONEY YOU'VE
EARNED FROM
HELPING ME
INTO A SAVINGS
ACCOUNT.





My room-
mate was
a guy three
years older
than me,
Subaru
Izumi.

The
first
stop
on
my trip
was a
month at
an English
school in
the Philip-
pines.

The
dormitory
had two-
person
rooms.

It turned
out he
was taking
a short
break from
studying at
a fashion
school in
Tokyo.

BUT AT
THAT POINT,
I COULDN'T
SPEAK A
WORD OF
ENGLISH!

WHEN I
WAS 16, I
BACKPACKED
FROM CANADA
TO MEXICO
BY MYSELF.



IT'S SUPER
STYLISH
THERE! DON'T
YOU WANT TO
TRIP AND MEET
SOME EXOTIC
PEOPLE?

FIRST
ONE IS
FATUA
NEW
GUINEA!

WELL,
THEN, HOW
ABOUT
TRAVELING
WITH ME
FOR A
BIT?

HA...?

Pappa?

HUH?

SOMETHING
MUST HAVE
HAPPENED..

I WAS PRETTY
CLOSE TO DYING,
SO I DECIDED TO
STUDY BEFORE I
GO THIS TIME!

HA
HA
HA!

WOW.

OH
RIGHT, YOU
HAVEN'T
DECIDED
WHICH
COUNTRY
YOU'RE
GOING TO
NEXT.

Hmm...





OTHER
THAN MY
GRANDMA,
YOU'RE THE
FIRST PERSON
I'VE SPENT A
LONG TIME
WITH.



I left
Subaru-
san, who
was headed
toward
Africa, in
Istanbul.

SUBARU-
SAN.

After
that, we
travelled
together to
Australia,
India and
around
Southeast
Asia.



.....

THANKS.



I'M HAPPY. IT
SEEMS I WAS
FINALLY ABLE
TO MAKE A
FRIEND.



LET'S
MEET UP
AGAIN IN
JAPAN!

OF COURSE
WE'RE ALWAYS
GOING TO BE
FRIENDS!

ARE
YOU AN
IDiot?!

GAA!

ARE YOU SURE?

While speaking English

I met a couple in a café who owned a vineyard near Paris.

When my remaining bank balance made it difficult to decide whether to see London or not...

After that, my solo journey started in Greece.

After traveling to Italy, I went around Eastern Europe.

OF COURSE!

LET'S HAVE LUNCH!

I BROUGHT FRESH GRAPE JUICE!

Instead of traditional architecture and cityscapes with huge buildings...

AYU!

I prefer these sorts of places.



IT'S ABOUT
TIME TO PUT UP THE
DECORATIONS.

ANOTHER NAME
FOR CHRISTMAS!

I HEARD THAT IN
JAPAN, COUPLES SPEND
TIME TOGETHER.

BUT IN FRANCE,
SPENDING TIME WITH YOUR
FAMILY IS VALUED.

NOËL?

Before I
noticed,
it was
already
December.



YOU CAN ALWAYS
RESTART YOUR JOURNEY
AT ANOTHER TIME.

UNTIL THEN, WE'LL
KEEP ONE OF THE
BOTTLES OF WINE THAT
YOU MADE. YOU'LL COME
BACK AND DRINK IT,
RIGHT, APU?

IF YOU'RE THINKING
YOU WANT TO SEE
HER, IT'S BEST THAT
YOU DO THAT.



YOU SEEM TO BE
HESITATING ABOUT
WHETHER TO CONTINUE
YOUR JOURNEY, APU.

DON'T
YOU WANT
TO SEE YOUR
GRANDMA?



I'M
GOING
HOME.



Since
coming here,
the only thing
I've thought
about is my
grandma.

The scenery
of this town
is similar to
my home,
after all.





PHOTO-
GRAPHY
CLUB...

This was
my motive
for entering
high school.

HE'S
THE ADVISOR FOR THE
PHOTOGRAPHY
CLUB AT THE
LOCAL HIGH
SCHOOL.

OUR SON
ALSO LIKES
ANALOG
CAMERAS.



IT HAS
BEEN A
LONG TIME
SINCE SOME-
ONE YOUR
AGE CAME
HERE TO
DEVELOP
FILM.

I
GUESS
THEY
ALL USE
DIGITAL
CAMERAS
NOW.



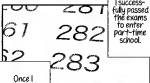
OKAY

I'M
TAKING
THE
PICTURE
NOW.
AHUMU-
CHAN.

Then,
this winter, I
took part in
the coming-
of-age
ceremony.*



After a
year of
intense
study...



I success-
fully passed
the exams
to enter
part-time
school.

Once I
started
classes,
I became
immersed in
the photo-
graphy
club.



*TYP. THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY
IN JAPAN IS HELD ON THE SECOND
MONDAY OF JANUARY EVERY YEAR AND
CELEBRATES EVERYONE WHO TURNED 20
IN THE PAST YEAR BECOMING ADULTS.

IN USE

If I had to say why, it's because I noticed a person that I recognized in one of the negative frames.

I decided to make prints from my precious first negatives.

I'm now in my second summer of high school.

Before I go to Tokyo, there's something I want to do first.



THIS IS GRANDMA'S GARDEN...

That first picture that my grandpa took...



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That I was
not loved
even once.



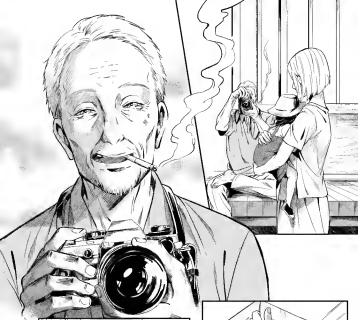
HOW DID I
FORGET?



I thought
that I was
hated from
the moment
I was born.

At
that
time,
surely
I was
loved.







I'VE...
GROWN
UP.



Just to
tell her
that.

This
summer, I
am heading
to Tokyo...



WELL
THEN, I'LL
SEE YOU
SOON.



IT'S
OKAY, I'M
EXPECTING
TO ARRIVE
THERE THIS
EVENING.

YEAH,
I'M JUST
ABOUT
TO
LEAVE.



HELLO,
SUBARU-
SAN?



OKAY,
BE SAFE!

I'M OFF!



GRANDMA!

*This time, he leaves
full of confidence.*

years/END

We hope you look forward to Nisi's next work.

AUTHOR'S Notes and Selected Commentaries

I'm so happy to receive this prize on this occasion and hear all the kind words from the judges. Thank you very much. I'd like to concentrate on human drama stories when I create manga from now on.

-NISEI, MANGAKA

The protagonist's emotions are carefully explored and it leaves the reader with warm feelings. The characters also had wonderful facial expressions and were very impressive to see. In particular, the emotions shown at the beginning and end were carefully crafted and these parts were wonderful to read. However, I didn't understand how, in the middle, the protagonist with his hikikomori-like tendencies became absorbed in photography and suddenly decided to study in the Philippines. This was a bit disappointing. I would have liked to see the story dig deeper into the appeal of photography.

-KATOU, EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

It's a work that has the protagonist becoming more positive and proactive and it feels very lively. However, in terms of composition, the past and present are a bit jumbled, the location changes frequently, and unfortunately, it becomes a bit difficult to follow. For your next work, I would like to see you decide "this is the scene I most want to create" and then refine the best way to show that scene to the reader.

-UEDA, EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

